

Focus

Polluted Waters List Schedule for 2002 Section 303(d)

Issue

Periodically, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) must develop a list of state water bodies that have some pollution problems and do not water quality standards. During the next year we will adopt guidelines for developing the list, accept new data to consider, and establish the list itself.

Background

The surface water quality standards for the state of Washington (Chapter 173-201A WAC) assure that each river, lake and marine waterbody will remain clean enough to protect its beneficial uses such as swimming, fishing, aquatic life habitat, and agricultural and domestic water supplies. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that each state prepare a list by April 2002 that contains waterbody segments that are not expected to meet state surface water quality standards. The list will contain the 'water quality limited segments' defined in 40 CFR 130.2(j). States must set priorities for completing a total maximum daily load (TMDL) study for each listed water body within ten years of listing. Listing a water body segment can trigger certain limitations for activities that would contribute to the identified problem.

Current Situation

Guidance for the 2002 list will differ from previous lists due to the adoption of new federal rules under the CWA. Draft revisions will be published on April 18, 2001 for formal public review. They will be finalized following consultation with the Indian Tribes in July of 2001. From that time until October of 2001 Ecology will accept data consistent with the listing criteria. Evaluation of the data will continue through the winter as a draft proposed list is developed. The draft will be published for public review and comment in late winter. Following assessment of the comments and consultation with the Indian Tribes Ecology will make appropriate revisions to the list. In April of 2002, Ecology plans to submit the final list to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Documents for review will be posted on the agency's Web site located at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/2002>. Our projected schedule follows.

Develop Listing Guidance

February 2001	Provide draft guidance and background documents for comment from interested parties
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March 2001	Receive comments on draft guidance from interested parties Review comments and meet with Indian Tribes and interested parties
April 2001	Publish proposed listing guidance in state register with request for formal public comments
May 2001	Receive final public comments on proposed listing guidance Meet with Indian Tribes and EPA discuss possible revisions
June 2001	Publish final guidance and response to comments Request new data submittals.

Develop List Based on New Data and Re-evaluation of Previous Data

July – October 2001	Evaluate existing, available data Work with interested parties to obtain additional data
October 2001	Receive final data submittals
December 2001	Review and assess data to develop proposed list
December 2001	Publish proposed list for public review and comment
February 2002	Receive final comments on proposed list
March 2002	Complete draft candidate list and draft responsiveness summary, send to interested Indian Tribes, EPA and Irrigation Districts review and comment
Mid-March 2002	Meet with Indian Tribes to review comments and revisions to list
April 15, 2002	Finalize candidate list
April 30, 2002	Submit final candidate list to EPA Publish final candidate list and Responsiveness Summary

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Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs, please call Donna Lynch at (360) 407-7529 (Voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD), E-mail dlyn461@ecy.wa.gov